

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C. APRIL 23, 1924.

The sixth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1924 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Wednesday, April 23, 1924. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Fraser,
Mr. Ayres,
Mr. Howbray,
Mr. Medary,
Mr. Delano,
Also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and

Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

The Commission welcomed Mr. Wm. Adams Delano, architect, of New York City, appointed by the President a member of the Commission to succeed Mr. Henry Bacon.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the

meeting held March 21 and 22, 1924, were approved.

2. UNITED STATES FLAG STANDARDIZATION: Mr. R. M. Hudson, Chairman of the Flag Standardization Committee of the Department of Commerce, appeared before the Commission with a design of the United States flag, drawn according to the recommendations made at their meeting March 21st, in the proportion of 13 stripes hoist to 21 stripes fly, the union as 7 to 8, and star circle diameter $3/4$ of the width of the stripe, the stars arranged alternately. Mr. Hudson advised that it was not colored in the colors suggested, because their Department did not have them. Mr. Howbray stated that he regarded the design about as complete as anyone could expect. The members generally were pleased with the design. The alternate arrangement of the rounded stars, with a blue border on the edge of the union, destroyed its mechanical appearance and gave lustre to the constellation. The flag, Mr. Medary said, should be an inspiration. Mr. Howbray stated that he would be glad to furnish samples of the colors. He regarded Chinese

Vermillion better than the English red or wine color. A discussion followed as to having the new design officially adopted. Mr. Hudson stated that at the conference of flag manufacturers held at the Department of Commerce last fall the former recommendation of the Commission of Fine Arts for a flag in the proportion of 1.67 to 1 had been generally approved, and he could not say how the new design would be received. The Commission thereupon suggested that at their next meeting, which is to be held on May 16th, the Committee on Flag Standardization of the Department of Commerce meet with the Commission for a conference (Exhibit A).

The Commission recognized the fact that the new design would mean a radical change in the manufacture of flags, and it was thought that if this design is accepted by the flag manufacturers steps should be taken with a view to having a new Executive Order issued and or having some action taken by Congress in the matter with a view to making it mandatory on the part of manufacturers to observe the official standard in the manufacture of flags. Thus far Congress has specified only the component parts of the flag. At the same time it was thought that if the new standard is adopted, the flag manufacturers should be allowed time before it is officially adopted, to enable them to dispose of their existing stock.

3. NEW FILTRATION PLANT: Major J. A. O'Connor, Engineer Officer in Charge of Washington work, submitted to the Commission two models of the Filtration Plant (scale 1/16" to 1'), which is being built near the District Line in connection with the new conduit from Great Falls. One of the models was made in conformity with the drawings heretofore approved by the Commission for the Filtration Plant, having a tower and building designed to conform to

the classical motives of public buildings in Washington; Model No.2 showed a mediaeval style of building, designed it was said, to give more light in the building, but which had a factory like appearance. Assistants to Major O'Connor who were present explained details, especially as to the interior arrangement, which they thought gave to Model No.2 advantages over the other, but they admitted that these could for the most part be included in Model No.1. The flat roof of Model No.2 was regarded by the Commission undesirable and more disadvantageous in case of rain than the slanted roof of Model No.1.

The Commission suggested to Major O'Connor that sketches be drawn to show the changes considered, to be included in a Filtration Plant built according to Model No.1. The use of soft red brick was recommended.

Major O'Connor stated that the New Conduit will give to Washington an additional 80 million gallons of water to the 70 million gallons now provided, and that they will use the rapid sand filter. Mr. Greenleaf recommended that, instead of having the arrangement at the entrance as shown in the models, of a circuitous paved driveway, the entrance be arranged into a court with planting of hedges and trees.

4. OFFICIAL MARKER FOR FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE: Major O'Connor submitted three sketches of a proposed official marker for the Francis Scott Key Bridge, a stone panel which is to be placed there to mark the construction of the bridge. The Commission approved Design No.2 as being the best of the designs submitted.

5. HOME FOR THE FEEBLE MINDED: Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted revised designs for the building of the Home for the Feeble Minded,

to be built near Camp Meade. The designs were approved, with the suggestion of the architect members of the Commission that the design for the rear be used also for the front of the building.

6. IMPROVEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Captain John E. Wood and Mr. J. W. Gosling submitted further studies of the new lamp post for Avenues and Plazas in the District of Columbia. No further change was suggested in the 22 foot pole, and it was approved. Minor changes were suggested in the 20 foot pole. The Commission recommended a full-sized model be erected before an order is given by the District Commissioners for the manufacture of new lamp posts.

Captain Wood submitted a plan prepared under the direction of the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia for a general improved lighting scheme for the District. The plan was made in the form of a Key map to show the different types of lights (A to H) which are to be used on the main streets, avenues and plazas, the residential and the commercial sections of the city. Mr. Moore commended Captain Wood for his good work in preparing the plan. The Commission approved the plan.

7. APPROACH FOR FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE: Captain Wood and Mr. Harris submitted a revised study for the approach to the Francis Scott Key Bridge, showing a plaza treatment at the approach of the bridge, a retaining wall along the hill on the east side of M Street, with the hill given a terraced treatment. The plan was regarded feasible, and it will be made the subject of still further study.

8. BUCHANAN MEMORIAL: General Lawrason Riggs, Chairman of the Buchanan Memorial Committee, Mr. W. G. Beecher, architect, and Mr. H. Schuler, sculptor, of the memorial were in conference with the Commission concerning the Buchanan

Memorial, which is to be erected in the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park. At the meeting of the Commission on March 21st, Mr. Ayres and Mr. Medary had suggested changes in the drawings of the full-sized model and these were explained to Mr. Beecher. Mr. Fraser called the attention of the sculptor, Mr. Schuler, to changes which should be made in his model of the statue of Buchanan. The recommendations of the Commission were embodied in a report to General Riggs (Exhibit B).

General Riggs stated that he still has \$80,000 for completing the monument, which includes setting up the memorial, but that this leaves nothing for the treatment about the memorial proposed in the plan for the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park. General Riggs stated further that his committee did not favor the idea of placing the monument in an unfinished park, and the Commission advised that they wait until prospects for completing the park are more favorable. Mr. Moore said that the Director of the Budget has become interested in the development of the District of Columbia and that the necessary fund to complete the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park would be made available, he thought, before very long.

9. MONUMENT FOR COLOMBIA: Under date of April 22, 1924, the Commission received the following letter from Mr. Franklin Adams, Counselor of the Pan American Union, asking the cooperation of the Commission of Fine Arts in securing a suitable design for a proposed monument which is to be erected by the Colombian government:

"The Pan American Union has received word through the Minister of Colombia in Washington that his Government is to have a competition for the supplying of a design for a monument to be erected in memory of the two great heroes in the Battle of Ayacucho, the decisive engagement in the South American struggle for liberty; General Rose Maira Cordoba and General Sucre.

This competition will close on the 30th day of June. The two

figures are to appear on one monument and the sculptors are asked to select for representation the decisive moment when the famous battle was won. The Pan American Union will be able to supply photographs of the two heroes, and also descriptive texts in English describing the Battle of Ayacucho.

The Minister of Colombia has asked the Pan American Union to bring this competition to the attention of the American sculptors most likely to be interested. Mr. Charles Keck of New York has already supplied monuments to Argentina and Brazil, and I believe he would be pleased to submit a design although, of course, the time is very short: less than two and a half months.

We would greatly appreciate having your advice as to just how we should bring this to the attention of sculptors in this country. The amount of the prize is \$1000 gold.

The Commission recommended that the competition be brought to the attention of the National Sculpture Society (Exhibit C).

10. PAINTING OF CHIEF JUSTICE WHITE: At the request of Hon. George W. Pepper, Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Library, the Commission inspected a painting of Chief Justice White by Albert Rosenthal, in the Senate Library Committee room. Mr. Mowbray, painter member of the Commission, recommended acceptance of the painting, and it was approved by the Commission.

11. BUSTS OF CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT: Mr. Moore stated that the Senate Committee on the Library desired advice with reference to placing of busts of the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Supreme Court Chamber. While at the Capitol, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Ayres, and Mr. Medary inspected them. Mr. Fraser stated that space could be provided for two additional busts without making any change in the walls, but that the busts were out of scale and that it would be better to take them out of the Chamber and find a new place for them. The Commission concurred in the matter.

12. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES BUILDING: Under date of April 2, 1924, the Commission received the following letter from Mr. Bertram G. Goodhue,

architect, with a sketch for a suggested treatment opposite B Street, as part of the motive for the National Academy of Sciences Building:

"The National Academy of Sciences building, 22nd and B Streets, of which I am the architect, the design being approved by you, is approaching completion -indeed, is to be dedicated during this month. During a visit of inspection last week, the idea came to me that the effect-of the building and its grounds, at any rate,-would be enormously improved could something like that shown on the enclosed blueprint be added-not now, perhaps, but when the proper funds were available. You will notice that there are two trees, one on each side of the road that, were the scheme carried out, would need to be removed. This is also true of a clump of bushes, one or two of which might, with no trouble whatsoever, be moved to the other side of the axis as shown in dotted lines.

What the feature across the street closing the axis would be, is yet very vague, but if the idea meets with your approval, I feel certain that I can promise you something very distinguished that will certainly add, rather than detract, from the beauty of the City of Washington.

Will you not be good enough to ponder the matter and let me know the result,when I shall take it up in a serious way" with my clients".

The sketch was submitted to Mr. Ayres for his recommendation in the matter, and so far as the design was concerned he thought it was acceptable. However, on visiting the National Academy of Sciences building in the afternoon, he found that the lay-out of the ground and the roads differed from that shown in the sketch and that therefore the scheme was not practicable. Mr. Medary felt that the proposed treatment on the opposite side of B Street would not add anything to the appearance of the building and that Mr. Goodhue had made ample provision for the approach to the building. As to building the structure at the site proposed, on park land of the Government, this would require the permission of Congress (Exhibit D).

The Commission learned with deep regret of the death of Mr. Goodhue, on the evening of April twenty-third, who was one of the great architects

of the United States, and who has made a notable and an enduring contribution to the public buildings of Washington in his National Academy of Sciences building. (The building was dedicated April 28, 1924. The principal Address was made by the President of the United States)

13. STATUE OF SERENITY: Under date of March 31, 1924, Lieut. Col. C.O. Sherrill, Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following letter to the Commission, asking advice with reference to the location of the Statue of "Serenity", which is being given to Washington by Charles Deering, of Chicago, to commemorate Admiral Wm. Henry Schuetze, U.S.N.:

"A joint resolution was recently passed by Congress, approved March 12, 1924, authorized the erection on public grounds of the United States in the District of Columbia, a statue by José Clard personifying "Serenity". The advice of the Commission of Fine Arts is requested as to the governing principles to be followed in the design of a pedestal for this statue and also as to one or more sites, which, in the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts, would be appropriate for this statue from an artistic point of view.

The donor of this statue is rather inclined to the view that a very simple setting as to pedestal and surroundings would be satisfactory, but in this matter it is desired to follow the artistic views of the Commission of Fine Arts."

The Commission recommended that the statue be erected in Meridian Hill Park, near the Sixteenth Street entrance, on the upper level, on a simple pedestal, 2' 6" high, in the midst of planting, which is now a part of the landscape plan of Meridian Hill Park. (Exhibit E).

14. NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART: Under date of March 28, 1924, Lieut. Col. Sherrill requested advice with reference to the location of the National Gallery of Art, saying --

"We observe that Mr. Platt states that he understands that 9th Street is to be abandoned, as his instructions are to use as much of the space between the New National Museum building and 7th Street as may be required for the National Gallery of Art. As the closing of 9th Street would not be in accordance with the plan of the Park Commission, which provides for the opening of this street through the Smithsonian Grounds, I am sending Mr. Platt's

letter for the consideration of the Commission of Fine Arts".

By letter of April 21st, Mr. Platt, architect of the National Gallery of Art, also asked the advice of the Commission as to this matter, as follows:

"As I understand you are to have a meeting next Wednesday and that you will bring up the question of the location of the National Gallery of Art, I am writing to request that you inform me as soon as possible, the action of the Commission.

I had started to make my preliminary drawings on the basis of instructions given me and I have put them aside since this question arose. The difference between a building 300' long and one 550' long means, of course, absolutely different layout and design in almost every particular. Should you decide that Ninth Street must go through I assume that you will take this matter up with Dr. Walcott immediately. I am sailing for Italy on the first of May. I should like to have in mind a clear idea of the problem before me. If this matter is left undecided, this is obviously impossible until the available site is fixed.

I have been looking up the dimensions of Art Museums abroad and in this country and I cannot find one in a first-class European city which would go on the restricted lot. The National Gallery is 450' long. South Kensington Museum has nearly four times the capacity of the National Gallery and the British Museum of course is larger than the South Kensington. Our Metropolitan Museum here is 1100' long and eventually all sides of it will be the same. In other words a quadrangle of these dimensions. The Boston Museum could be comprised in a square about 500' or 600' in each direction.

It seems from all this that the National Gallery of Art will require no less than the space given to it if Ninth Street is abandoned and if it is not abandoned, where will the National Gallery of Art be placed?

The Commission visited the proposed location and considered it in connection with the Act of Congress, approved February 13, 1923 (Public No. 409, 67th Congress, page 10) providing a site for the National Gallery of Art, as follows:

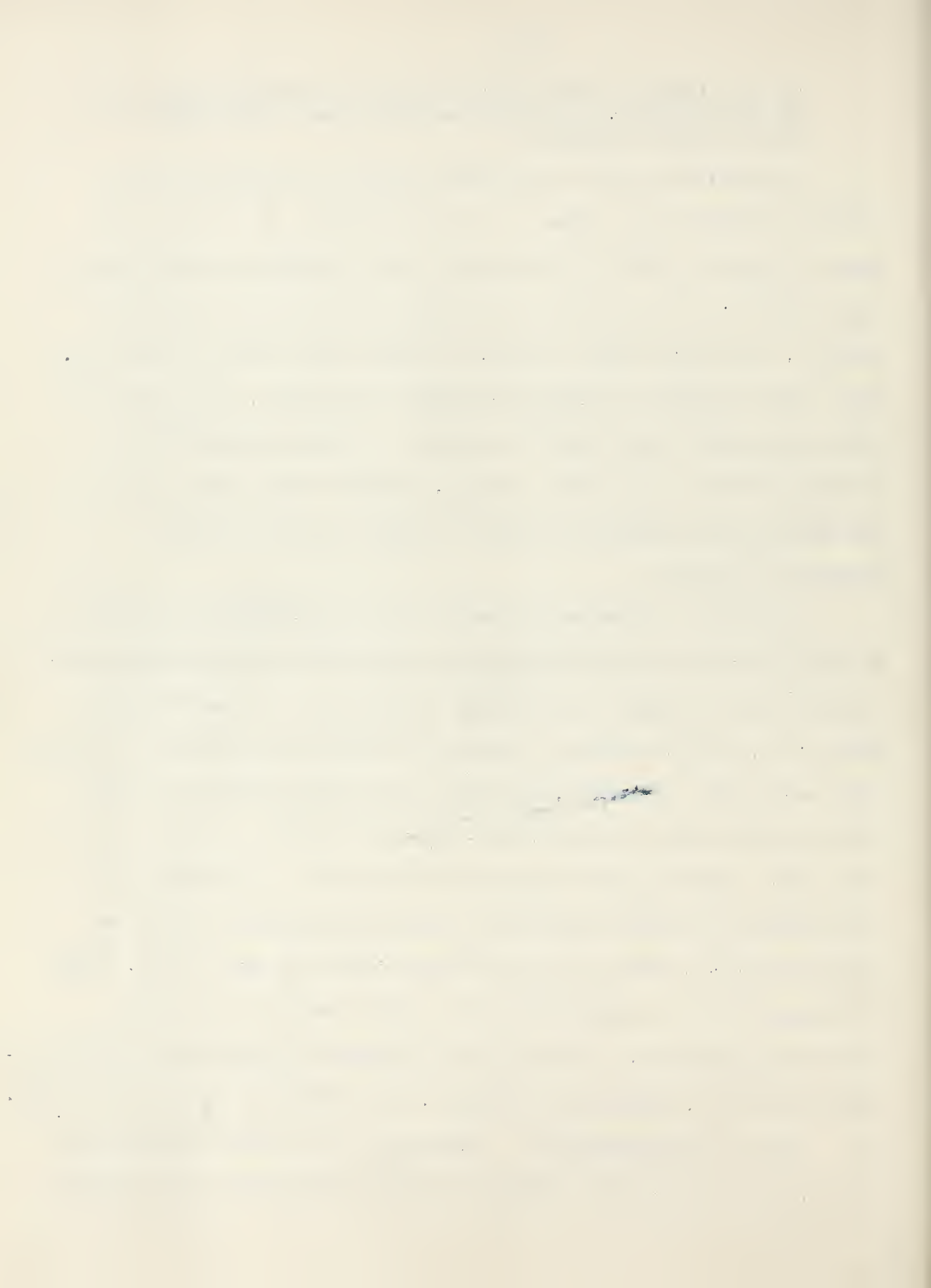
"The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution are authorized to prepare preliminary plans for a suitable fireproof building with granite fronts for the National Gallery of Art, including the National Portrait Gallery, and the history collections of the United States National Museum, said building to be erected when funds from gifts or bequests are in possession of the said Regents, in sections or completely on the north side of the Mall between the Natural History Building, United States National Museum, and Seventh Street, leaving a space between it and the latter of not less than 100 feet and a space of

not less than one hundred feet between it and Seventh Street, with its south front on a line with the south front of the said Natural History Building".

The Commission were of the opinion that the area between Seventh and Ninth Streets would provide for a National Gallery of Art about 400 feet in length on a line with the Natural History Museum, provided Congress would consent to the erection of the building within 50 feet, instead of 100 feet, from each of these streets, the square being about 500 feet long. This would eliminate the question of closing Ninth Street, as to which the Commission thought there would be objection. Mr. Moore stated that a National Gallery of Art at this location, 400 feet long and on a line with the Natural History Museum would give a building the size of the Congressional Library.

Mr. Medary recommended that before a plan for the National Gallery of Art is drawn consideration be given by the authorities of the Smithsonian Institution to the question of grouping the exhibitions of the Smithsonian Institution, so as to comprise a series of buildings, systematically arranged; that under present conditions, for example, the Freer Gallery of Art would be on the south side of the Mall and the National Gallery of Art on the north side. The Commission concurred in this and felt that unless the authorities of the Smithsonian Institution would thoroughly consider the problem now that it would be more and more difficult to cope with it, since with the growth of the United States they would find their exhibitions continually increasing. A report was submitted to Colonel Sherrill (Exhibit F). These matters were explained to Mr. Platt, who visited Washington on April 24th.

15. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: The members of the Commission expressed their desire to confer with members of the Senate Committee on the Library



with regard to the proposed design of the Navy and Marine Memorial, showing the wave and sea gulls. It was learned, however, at the Capitol that the Senate Library Committee would not meet until late in the afternoon. A report with reference to the design was submitted to Senator Pepper, Chairman of the Committee, and to Mrs. Anna M. Graham, Executive Secretary of the Navy and Marine Memorial (Exhibit G and G-1).

16. **MARKER NEAR FORT STEVENS:** Miss Ruth H. Early, daughter of Major General Jubal A. Early, having expressed her desire to have a marker erected at the point where General Early reached Washington during the Civil War, the Commission recommended a type of marker, similar to the Zero Milestone, south of the White House (Exhibit H).

17. **PLANS FOR THE EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY:** Under date of March 20, 1924, Hon. Dwight F. Davis, The Assistant Secretary of War, submitted the following letter with plans for the extension and improvement of the Arlington National Cemetery, for the advice of the Commission:

"In further reference to your letter of May 24th, and my reply of May 28th, 1923, on the subject of improvements at Arlington Cemetery, I am enclosing herewith plans and estimates, prepared by the Quartermaster General in accordance with the suggestions made in your letter, and request that you return them to me with such comment and suggestions as you may care to make".

Mr. Greenleaf, Landscape Architect member of the Commission, made a thorough inspection and study of the plans on Tuesday, April 22d, and submitted his recommendations to the Commission, which were approved, and transmitted in a report to the War Department (Exhibit I).

18. **MEMORIAL SERVICE TO HENRY BACON:** At 5 o'clock the members of the Commission gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to pay tribute to the memory of their late member, Henry Bacon, architect of the memorial. The services

were arranged with the cooperation of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. An appreciative audience, personal friends of Mr. Bacon in Washington, attended.

The United States Marine Band opened the service with Walther's "Prize Song" from "The Meistersinger of Nuremburg", which the Marine Band played at the Lincoln Memorial about a year ago, at Mr. Bacon's request, when he was given the gold medal of the American Institute of Architects by the late President Harding. Rev. Wallace Radcliffe, D.D., LL.D., pastor emeritus of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, also known as the Lincoln Church, offered the prayer. Roland Moore sang "The Song of Thanksgiving" by Allitsen and "The Evening Star" by Wagner. In concluding the tribute the Marine Band played "The Star Spangled Banner".

COPY

April 25, 1924.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting April 23, 1924, considered the design which you submitted at their request, in behalf of the Department of Commerce, for a United States flag having the proportions of 13 stripes hoist to 21 stripes fly, with the union as 7 is to 8 and the star circle diameter $\frac{3}{4}$ of the width of the stripe, the stars arranged alternately. The Commission believe this design a great improvement over any of the designs heretofore submitted, and would recommend these proportions for a standard United States flag, for the following reasons:

1.The modular standard of measurement for the United States flag is to be preferred to the decimal system at present in use. While it may seem a radical change by the flag manufacturers, the Commission believe that the new standard of measurement will serve more readily in the manufacture of flags.

2.The union of the flag square-shaped is more like the original design of the flag, and gives a much better appearance than the union oblong in shape, at present in use.

3.The size of the star should be considered in relation to the blue. The Commission feel that a star $\frac{3}{4}$ of the width of the stripe is about the right proportion. In view of the rounded appearance given the star in this design, it may be desirable to make it slightly smaller.

4.The Commission note that alternating the stars destroys the mechanical appearance of the union. It gives beauty to the constellation of the stars, which is enhanced by about a half stripe width of blue on the edge of the union, as shown in the design.

For a further consideration of the subject, the Commission of Fine Arts would be pleased to have manufacturers of United States flags be present with you at the next meeting of the Commission on May 16, 1924, and the members of your Committee.

Very respectfully yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. R. M. Hudson, Chairman,
Flag Standardization Committee,
Department of Commerce,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

COPY

April 28, 1924.

Dear General Riggs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting April 23, 1924, gave careful consideration to the drawings which you submitted of the full-sized model of the Buchanan Memorial, and having inspected the model and consulted with you and Mr. W. G. Beecher, architect, and Mr. H. Schuler, sculptor, of the memorial, regarding the design, the Commission recommend the following changes:

1. A general revision of the architectural motif back of the Buchanan statue. Omit the projection over the cornice; lower the cornice; omit the pilasters; omit the "rosettes", and the name Buchanan, which may more properly be placed on the pavement in front of the statue. The motif should be one simple frame (as indicated by the attached sketch), rather than have the appearance of an entablature resting on pilasters.
2. Omit the frieze and fillet from the enveloping wall.
3. The seat of the Buchanan statue, as shown in the design and in the model, is too narrow. It should be redesigned to harmonize with the figure of Buchanan and the revised central motif.
4. The sculptor member of the Commission, Mr. Fraser, has called the attention of Mr. Schuler to certain changes which should be made in the figure of Buchanan, and the necessity of raising the seat. Mr. Schuler should make a new scale model, showing these changes in the figure and the revised pedestal, and motif back of the statue, for inspection by the Commission of Fine Arts before casting the figure.
5. The sculptural figures, one at each end of the monument, should be given somewhat more formal seats.
6. The Commission recommend that the monument be done in granite, instead of marble.
7. The Commission do not expect that a new full-sized model be made. But they would be pleased to see a revised drawing of Drawing No. 4, showing the changes recommended, and the small scale model of the Buchanan figure, as above indicated under item 4.
8. The Commission suggest that the Buchanan Memorial be not erected in the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park until there is reasonable assurance that the work in that part of the park will be completed.

In addition to these changes, the attention of the architect and the sculptor were called to certain minor changes desirable, and which it is understood will be embodied by them in their further work on the Buchanan Memorial.

Very respectfully yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

General Lawrence Riggs,
632 Equitable Building,
Baltimore, Md.

EXHIBIT B

COPY

April 24, 1924.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts desire to bring to your attention a competition for a monument to be erected by the Colombian government in memory of the two great heroes in the Battle of Ayacucho. A copy of a letter received from Mr. Franklin Adams, Counselor of the Pan American Union, is attached hereto, setting forth that the Minister of Colombia desires that this competition be brought to the attention of the American sculptors most likely to be interested.

The Commission of Fine Arts would appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Further details as to the competition would be furnished to you by Mr. Adams upon request.

Yours very truly,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The National Sculpture Society,
215 West 57th Street,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT C.

COPY

April 26, 1924.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting April 23, 1924, gave consideration to the treatment suggested by Mr. Goodhue, indicated on the enclosed sketch, for the termination of the axis of the National Academy of Sciences Building, on the south side of B Street.

The Commission saw no objection to this proposed treatment, but upon inspection of the grounds it was noted that it would be impracticable, because the road leading to the Lincoln Memorial is nearer the motif (at the point marked in pencil on the sketch) than the design would indicate. It was noted also that this motif would be located on park land of the Government, and it would be necessary, of course, to secure the consent of Congress to permit any structure on this area.

The news of Mr. Goodhue's death came after the adjournment of the Commission meeting. The members of the Commission individually were deeply grieved over the loss of so distinguished a member of the architectural profession. They appreciate very highly indeed the addition that Mr. Goodhue has made in the building for the National Research Council and the National Academy of Sciences to the distinguished structures which adorn the National Capital. Also they wish to express their appreciation of the way in which Mr. Goodhue has dealt with the problems involved in creating a part of the setting for the termination of the great central composition of the Plan of Washington. His work in this respect will cause his creation to have an enduring quality.

Very sincerely, yours,

Charles Moore,
Chairman.

The Office of
Bertram G. Goodhue,
2 West 41st Street,
New York, N.Y.

EXHIBIT D.

COPY

April 24, 1924.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting April 23, 1924, gave consideration to the question of location of the statue of Serenity, as requested in your letter of March 31st.

The Commission recommend that the statue be erected in Meridian Hill Park, near the Sixteenth Street entrance, on the upper level of the park, at the point indicated by cross mark (x) on the attached print. The Commission recommend further that the statue be placed on a simple pedestal 2 feet 6 inches high, among trees and other planting, which are now a part of the landscape plan of Meridian Hill Park.

The Commission disapproved the approach and platform treatment suggested by the sculptor in the sketch submitted by him, as being inappropriate and unnecessary, since Meridian Hill Park has been designed as a "garden park". It is thought the pedestal of the height suggested (2' 6") will give to the statue the height from the sidewalk contemplated by the sculptor. When the architect for the pedestal has been selected, the Commission will be pleased to have his tentative sketches submitted.

Yours very truly,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. C. Sherrill,
Officer in Charge of
Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT E

COPY

April 25, 1924.

Dear Colonel Sherrill:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting April 23, 1924, considered very carefully the questions involved in your letter of March 28th, regarding the location of a National Gallery of Art, as provided by Congress. The Act specifies the location.

Mr. Platt was in Washington on Thursday and the matter was gone over again with him. He feels that the space between Seventh and Ninth Streets will be too small for a National Gallery of Art, which should not be more than two stories in height. The Commission were seriously concerned over the proposed closing of Ninth Street. They regard the treatment of the space between Seventh and Ninth Streets as occupied by the Carnegie Library, the Patent Office, and the Market, as forming a great cross axis of the city, which might well be carried through to the river by a series of similar treatments. With this in view, the Commission are concerned about extending a building across Ninth Street, placing it out of relation with the new Market, which must be constructed sooner or later on the old Market site. Both the Park Commission Plan and the Public Buildings Report show Ninth Street carried through.

Ninth Street now goes into the Mall and there is a corresponding entrance from B. Street South into the Mall between the Smithsonian Institution proper and the old National Museum. Mr. Platt was to take up these matters with the Smithsonian people and try to reach some understanding with them. Meantime the only thing to go by seems to be the Act of Congress. Of course the Act authorizes only the preparation of plans.

As to the width of B Street North, the Commission understands that this street shall have a uniform width, to conform to Plan III of the Public Buildings Plan, The Mall and Vicinity, 1917.

Yours very truly,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,
Officer in Charge of
Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT F.

COPY

April 25, 1924.

Dear Senator Pepper:

One of the objects of the call of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts on you Wednesday was to discuss with you in quite an informal manner the questions that have come up in relation to the proposed Navy and Marine Memorial. These questions involve the use and the improvement of one of the most conspicuous and commanding sites in all the District of Columbia, namely at Hains Point, the southern extremity of East Potomac Park. This site has been saved, so to speak, for a finer treatment than any that has yet been proposed. A Navy and Marine memorial is a subject which might well fill the site assigned to it. The question then would be the importance and the artistic character of the treatment.

The Commission of Fine Arts, after a very patient examination of the models submitted by the sculptor of the wave and the gulls, are satisfied that the subject does not lend itself to a treatment involving a bronze wave 30 feet in length. On a very small scale the work might be made interesting; on a large scale the interest disappears. Again on a small scale the monument would not be sufficiently important to commemorate the services of the Navy and the Marine to occupy the location indicated. Again, the sculptor has not given evidence of his ability nor does any of his previous works, so far as the Commission has seen it, warrant the belief that he would be able to cope with the problems involved in the design.

The architect, who submitted tentative sketches for the pedestal, made an interesting design, but here again the Commission felt that a great deal of labor would be expended in covering a large surface without corresponding artistic results.

These are matters that can be discussed informally with your Committee much better than they can be put on paper. This letter therefore is not a final report, but rather is in the nature of an expression of the perplexities involved in the situation.

Very respectfully yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. George W. Pepper, Chairman,
Committee on the Library,
United States Senate.

EXHIBIT G.

COPY

May 1, 1924.

Dear Mrs. Graham:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meetings on March 21, and April 23, 1924, considered the designs submitted by Mr. Harvey W. Corbett, architect, and Ernesto Begni del Piatta, sculptor, of New York City, for a Navy and Marine Memorial, to be located on Hains Point, East Potomac Park.

The Commission is of the opinion that the design, if well executed on a small scale, would be interesting; but that it is not susceptible of treatment on the scale proposed. On the other hand, if the design shall be executed in a size to make it interesting, it would not be worthy of the purpose it is intended to serve, namely as a Navy and Marine Memorial. Moreover, the sketches submitted were not of a character to give the Commission confidence that the artist is capable of carrying out his romantic and picturesque idea.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mrs. Anna M. Graham,
Executive Secretary,
Navy and Marine Memorial,
125 West 11th Street,
New York City.

EXHIBIT G.-1.

COPY

April 28, 1924.

Dear Miss Early:

The Commission of Fine Arts recommend that a marker, substantially in the shape of the Zero Milestone south of the White House, be placed on the edge of the circle directly in front of the flagpole at the Walter Reed Hospital; that the inscription be--

The Confederate forces under Major General Jubal A. Early reached this point in their attack on the City of Washington July 11, 1863. (This

date is to be verified by the War Department).

I have secured permission from the Surgeon General of the Army to have the marker erected at this point.

The Commission would be pleased to see a drawing and plan of the marker and a detailed drawing of the lettering. It was especially impressed upon me by Surgeon General Ireland that no suggestion of a funereal character be embodied in the marker. This point should be especially guarded in making the design.

Very truly yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Miss Ruth H. Early,
122 Harrison Street,
Lynchburg, Virginia.

EXHIBIT H.

April 26, 1924.

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting April 23, 1924, gave careful consideration to your letter of March 20, 1924, with which you submitted plans and estimates for the improvement of the Arlington National Cemetery.

The Commission have noted that the plans and estimates were made in conformity with the recommendations contained in their letter to you of May 24, 1923, and a conference held with the Quartermaster General and his assistants in the fall of 1923.

The plans and estimates were made the subject of particular study by Mr. James L. Greenleaf, Landscape Architect member of the Commission, whose recommendations are included in this report and are approved by the Commission of Fine Arts.

A number of the plans submitted have heretofore been considered and approved by the Commission, and these are returned to you without change. The following recommendations are made:

Plan No.6608-115. No further change.

Plan No.6608-116. No further change.

Plan No.6608-117. No further change.

Plan No.6608-120. This plan is approved.

Plan No.6608-121. This plan is approved, excepting as to the entrance to the Arlington Memorial Bridge, and roadway, which is explained in connection with Plan No.6608-122.

Plan No.6608-122. The Commission of Fine Arts recommend that this plan be amended to show the approach to Arlington from the Arlington Memorial Bridge, as shown in the sketch prepared by Mr. Greenleaf, which the Commission of Fine Arts approve, and which is attached hereto. The sketch provides that the great entrance to Arlington shall be at a point about half-way between the State Highway and Columbia Island, and contemplates including the Experimental Farm area into Greater Arlington and relating this part of Arlington to the comprehensive plans for the Virginia approach to the Arlington Memorial Bridge. Instead of the present State Highway leading from the Francis Scott Key Bridge south to Alexandria, there will be, as indicated by Mr. Greenleaf and as shown on the plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge,--

1. A boulevard leading from the Virginia approach of the bridge north to Rosslyn, to connect with the Lee Highway.
2. A boulevard from the Virginia approach of the bridge south, which will be the Mount Vernon Boulevard.
3. A "boulevard treatment" leading to the Arlington National Cemetery.

The Commission recommend further that the "Arlington Farms" section be drawn in detail, so as to show graves areas, roads and walks, the same as is shown in the plan of Arlington proper.

While it may be a number of years before any extensive work will be

done at the Virginia approach of the Arlington Memorial Bridge, the Commission of Fine Arts regard it of the utmost importance at this time that the plan under consideration (No.6608-122) be complete, both as to the proposed extension to include the Arlington Farms, and as to the treatment for the Virginia approach to the Arlington Memorial Bridge. The Plan of Washington, which has been carried forward under the supervision of the Commission of Fine Arts for the past fourteen years, provides that the banks of the Potomac River from the Francis Scott Key Bridge to the Long Bridge, and the islands of the river, shall become a part of the park system of the District of Columbia, to bring them in harmony with the treatment in the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial and of Potomac Park. The Arlington Memorial Bridge will provide a direct approach from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington, and the development of this area should also be in keeping with the dignity and sanctity of the Arlington National Cemetery. A photograph of the "Outer Parks" plan, prepared by the Commission of Fine Arts, showing the Arlington National Cemetery and present and proposed park areas and boulevard treatment for the National Capital, is enclosed.

With regard to the statement of estimates, no changes are suggested, but your attention is respectfully called to items 25, "Rebuilding portions of Georgetown-Alexandria Road" and No.26, "New Wall around Arlington Farms section", which it would seem contemplate the amendment of Plan No.6608-122 to conform to the recommendations of the Commission above mentioned. As to item 8, "New Superintendent's Quarters", the Commission do not approve of the location suggested in the plan. While the building may be in this locality, it should not be built immediately at the approach of the Arlington Memorial Bridge, but preferably back some distance among trees; also, in designing the "New Superintendent's Quarters", it is thought a "Rest Room" for visitors to Arlington should be included in the design. The Commission would be pleased to see these estimates included in the Budget for the next fiscal year.

The plans and correspondence which you submitted are herewith returned.

The Commission would be pleased to have Plan No.6608-122 amended so as to include these recommendations resubmitted to them. It may be stated that as to a new location for the Arlington Farms, the Commission of Fine Arts have recommended that these be relocated in a development under way in the Northeast section of the District of Columbia, in which the Secretary of Agriculture has expressed his interest.

The Commission of Fine Arts highly appreciate your personal interest in these plans for the improvement of the Arlington National Cemetery and the courtesy shown by the Quartermaster General and his assistants in their cooperation with the Commission towards the development of the project.

Very respectfully, yours,

Hon. Dwight F. Davis,
The Assistant Secretary of War,
War Department.

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

EXHIBIT I.

